Press release

Wettest October since 1987

30 October 2000

Release number 437

Last night's storm produced the strongest winds in south-east England since the Burns Day storm of 1990. Further west along the south coast and in parts of the West Country, last night's gales were no stronger than those that occurred last Christmas.

The storm also produced over 50mm of rain in some parts of southern Britain, boosting the total rainfall across England and Wales so far this month to 147 mm. With two days rainfall to collect it is likely to be the wettest October generally since 1987 (when 184 mm fell), and parts of south-east England will break October rainfall records.

Met. Office forecasters began warning of last night's storm as early as last Thursday before it had even formed over the Atlantic. This was made possible by the improvements in weather forecasting introduced in the wake of the 'Great Storm' in 1987. These improvements include the network of weather buoys that surround the UK's coastal waters, and the National Severe Weather Warning Service which was introduced to improve the communication of weather information to the public.

Ewen McCallum, Head of Forecasting at The Met. Office, said: "Two months of very wet weather over south-east England culminated last night in the worst storm for ten years. The weather will stay showery and unsettled over the next couple of days but it won't be as wet or as windy as Sunday night."

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